

an additive in a concentration from about 4 wt% to about 40 wt%, based on a total weight of the composition, comprising a substantially amorphous co-polymer of ethylene and an acrylate; and

a compatibilizer/emulsifier/surfactant (CES) in a concentration from about 0.1 wt% to about 8 wt%, based on the total weight of the composition, comprising a grafted or backbone co-polymer or ter-polymer of ethylene and a glycidyl acrylate or maleic anhydride, and optionally an acrylate selected from the group consisting of methylacrylate, ethylacrylate, propylacrylate, butylacrylate, ethylhexylmethacrylate, and mixtures thereof;

wherein said composition maintains dimensional stability during extended periods at 250°F.

20. (amended) A food-grade thermoplastic polymeric composition having a degree of thermally induced crystallinity of at least about 15%, said composition comprising:

a bulk polymer selected from the group consisting of PET, PEN, PETG, PCT, PCTA, PTT, and mixtures thereof, said bulk polymer optionally comprising up to about 10 wt% of a polyethylene based on the total weight of the bulk polymer;

an additive in a concentration from about 4 wt% to about 15 wt%, based on a total weight of the composition, comprising a substantially amorphous co-polymer of ethylene and an acrylate; and

a compatibilizer/emulsifier/surfactant (CES) in a concentration from about 0.1 wt% to less than 4 wt%, based on the total weight of the composition, comprising a grafted or backbone co-polymer or ter-polymer of ethylene and a glycidyl acrylate or maleic anhydride, and optionally an acrylate selected from the group consisting of methylacrylate, ethylacrylate, propylacrylate, butylacrylate, ethylhexylacrylate, and mixtures thereof;

wherein said composition maintains dimensional stability during extended periods at 250°F.

21. (amended) A layered thermoplastic polymeric composition comprising:

(a) a first thermoplastic polymeric layer having a degree of thermally induced crystallinity of at least about 15%, said first layer comprising:

(i) a bulk polymer selected from the group consisting of PET, PEN, PETG, PCT,

PCTA, PTT, and mixtures thereof, said bulk polymer optionally comprising up to about 10 wt% of a polyethylene based on the total weight of the bulk polymer;

(ii) an additive in a concentration from about 4 wt% to about 40 wt%, based on a total weight of the composition, comprising a substantially amorphous co-polymer of ethylene and an acrylate; and

(iii) a compatibilizer/emulsifier/surfactant (CES) in a concentration from about 0.1 wt% to about 8 wt%, based on the total weight of the composition, comprising a grafted or backbone co-polymer or ter-polymer of ethylene and a glycidyl acrylate or maleic anhydride, and optionally an acrylate selected from the group consisting of methylacrylate, ethylacrylate, propylacrylate, butylacrylate, ethylhexyl methacrylate, and mixtures thereof; and

(b) a second polymeric layer laminated to or co-extruded onto the first layer;

wherein said layered composition maintains dimensional stability during extended periods at 250°F.

Please add new claims 23-26 as follows.

23. (new) The thermoplastic composition of claim 1 which has a degree of thermally induced crystallinity of at least about 20%.

24. (new) The thermoplastic composition of claim 20 which has a degree of thermally induced crystallinity of at least about 20%.

25. (new) The layered thermoplastic composition of claim 21 wherein said first layer has a degree of thermally induced crystallinity of at least about 20%.

26. (new) A food-grade thermoplastic polymeric composition having a degree of thermally induced crystallinity of at least about 15%, said composition comprising:

a bulk polymer selected from the group consisting of PET, PEN, PETG, PCT, PCTA, PTT, and mixtures thereof;